

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER • 815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

Walter H. Boyd, Press Officer

M. Drew Dearnaley, Assistant Press Officer

Telephone: (212) 867-8400

81040

February 5, 1981

BISHOP TUTU'S PASSPORT RETURNED

JOHANNESBURG -- Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu will again be permitted to travel outside the Republic of South Africa after nearly nine months.

Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, was forced to surrender his passport to South African officials last March. The action, an apparent effort to stifle his criticism of that country's apartheid policies, evoked a storm of criticism from Church and diplomatic leaders throughout the west.

Although forced to cancel his role in many of the international gatherings to which he had been invited, the move failed to silence the activist prelate. He, his wife Leah, and 50 other Christian leaders were arrested, briefly detained and fined by the Pretoria regime for their peaceful protest of the arrest of a clergyman in May.

Tutu's role in the struggle against racial discrimination in South Africa has won worldwide acclaim and support. Early this year, the Alexander Onassis Foundation announced that he would receive the Athena Prize of \$100,000 for his work.

He is expected to travel to Athens in June for award ceremonies and American Church leaders also hope he will make a return visit to the U.S. in the spring.

#

DP DX

